

British Birds. January 1, 1912. Vol. V, No. 8.

Dr. L. Bureau's work on the Partridge. By N. F. T.—A review in English of this recent volume which comprises probably the most detailed study of molt in live birds that has yet appeared.

The North American Peregrine in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. By G. H. Eaton Haigh.

British Birds. February 1, 1912. Vol. V, No. 9.

Breeding and "Eclipse" Plumages of the Common Partridge. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.—A phase not hitherto recorded, perhaps analogous to one of the plumages of the Ptarmigan.

The Avicultural Magazine. Vol. III. No. 3. January, 1912.

A Roccoolo in Italy by Hubert D. Astley.—An interesting account of the device for catching migrating birds.

The Blue Robin [!] *Sialia sialis*. By Catharine Currey.—An account of our Bluebird as a cage bird.

A Jay New to Aviculture, *Calocitta lidthii* Hubert D. Astley.—It is but a few years ago that this rare Loo Choo *Garrulus* was known only from Bonaparte's description. This is probably the first time that it has been placed in the genus *Calocitta*!

The Avicultural Magazine. Vol. III. No. 4. February, 1912.

Some Notes on the Secretary Bird. By Major Horsbrugh and W. H. St. Quentin.—Habits of wild and captive birds.

Notes on a Storm Petrel in Captivity. By C. B. Ticehurst.—The bird *Procellaria pelagica*, always stood on the entire tarsi, only rising on the toes when flapping the wings at the beginning of flight.

Publications Received.—Beebe, C. William and Crandall, Lee, S. The Undescribed Juvenal Plumage of the Yucatan Jay. Zoölogical Scientific Contributions of the New York Zoological Society, Vol. I, No. 7, 1911.

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Berlepsch, Hans Graf von. Revision der Tanagriden. (Bericht über den V. Internationalen Ornithologen-Kongress, Berlin, 1910, pp. 1001–1161.)

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Goldman, E. A. A New Kingfisher from Panama. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 56, No. 27, 1911.)

Hellmayr, C. E. Description de Trois Nouvelles Espèces d'Oiseaux des Familles de Dendrocolaptides et Formicariides. (Rev. Française d'Orn. Nos. 24 et 24 bis 1911.)

Hellmayr, C. E. A Contribution to the Ornithology of Western Colombia. (Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1911, pp. 1084-1213.)

Hellmayr, C. E. Ueber neue und seltene Vögel aus Südperu. (Verhandl. Ornith. Gesells. in Bayern XI, 1912, pp. 159-163.)

Hellmayr, C. E. und Seilern, Josef Graf von. Beschreibung eines neuen Dendrocoloptiden aus Venezuela. (Verhandl. Ornith. Gesells. in Bayern XI, 1912, pp. 157-158.)

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Mearns, E. A. Description of Seven New African Grass-Warblers of the genus *Cisticola*. (Smithson. Misc. Coll., 56, No. 25, 1911.)

Mearns, E. A. Description of a New Species of Sunbird, *Helionympha raineyi*, from British East Africa. (Smithson. Misc. Coll. 56, No. 28, 1911.)

Nelson, E. W. Description of two new species of Nuu Birds from Panama. (Smithson. Misc. Coll., 56, No. 37, 1912.)

Parkin, Thomas. The Great Auk. A Record of Sales of Birds and Eggs by Public Auction in Great Britain 1806-1910. (Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist Extra Paper to Pt. 6, Vol. I). Hastings, Burfield & Pennells Ltd. 1911. Price, 2 shillings.

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Shufeldt, R. W. American Wild Fowl I-II. (Amateur Sportsman, Jan.-Feb., 1912.)

Shufeldt, R. W. Study of Birds' Eggs. (Emu, XI, Pt. 3, 1912.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Photography of Birds' Eggs.

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sir:—A number of years ago I published several articles on my methods of photographing the eggs of birds, and at that time the subject was attracting considerable attention. Mr. Henry E. Dresser, then engaged upon his *Eggs of the Birds of Europe*, sent me several of his colored plates of eggs for my criticism with respect to the selection of backgrounds. They were the most beautiful things of the kind I had ever seen, and, in fact, I had one or two of them framed for my study. Besides being far ahead of my own achievements in that line, they were elegantly colored and true to nature. Mr. Dresser never wrote me how he made his photographs of birds' eggs, which latter, as we know, stand among the most difficult of all small, inanimate objects representing biological material that the naturalist seeks to obtain photographs of for illustrative purposes. Some ten or fifteen years ago, when I first undertook to photograph birds' eggs, the success I met with was only partial. In those days I used to stick the blown eggs on to a vertical pane of glass with a piece of soft wax. Care was taken that the glass was free from all blemishes (air-bubbles, etc.), and the eggs could be arranged as desired and as they were to appear in the photograph for reproduction and publication. A background of any selected kind was firmly fixed at a proper distance behind the glass and in a plane parallel to it. In setting up the camera to make the exposures, it was done so that the visual axis or line passing through the lens was perpendicular to these planes, and at a middle point of the egg or eggs to be photographed.